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Lufbery, Famous U.S. Airman, Killed in France

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LUFBERY, FAMOUS U. S. AIRMAN, KILLED IN FRANCE



MAJ. RAOUL LUFBERY

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Sunday, May 19, by the Associated Press—Maj. Raoul Lufbery, who had been regarded as the best aviator in the American air service, was shot down in flames and killed this morning by a big German triplane which he was attacking.

Lufbery jumped from his flaming machine when 800 yards above the ground.

He will be buried with full military honors, in which both American and French troops will participate.

Lufbery's home was in Wallingford, Conn.

The German machine which brought Lufbery down, which was armed with two machine guns, with an operator for each piece, apparently escaped.

Lufbery's only wound, aside from those received when he crashed to earth, was a bullet hole through his thumb. Apparently the same bullet punctured one of the gasoline tanks of his machine.

The German machine was under heavy anti-aircraft fire several times both before and after the air fight, and one explosion of a shell upset the enemy's plane, but it managed to straighten out.

It was about 10 o'clock this morning when a German triplane suddenly descended from the clouds, apparently because of engine trouble, until it was only some 1500 meters over the city of Toul. The American flyers were on the alert and some of them headed for the fighting line, to await the enemy on his return.

Lufbery and the pilot of another machine made after the German, who quickly ran away from the direction of the line, the two American machines following him.

Eight miles away from the enemy's line Lufbery was seen to attack from under the tail, but then he drew off, as if his machine gun had jammed. Two minutes later he attacked again, from the same position, and almost immediately his machine burst into flames.

LUFBERY BURIED TODAY WITH MILITARY HONORS

PARIS, May 20—Maj. Raoul Lufbery, the first American ace to be killed as the result of an aerial fight, was buried today with full military

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-MONDAY, MAY 20,

LUFBERY, FAMOUS U. S. AIRMAN, KILLED IN FRANCE

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honors by French and American detachments.

LUFBERY, ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS AVIATORS

The life of Maj Gervais Raoul Lufbery, the French-Yankee air hero, was as unusual as his death.

He called Wallingford, Conn, "home," but in fact the whole world was home to him, and he had seen much of it.

It merely happened that he stayed longer in Wallingford than in any other place he remembered, so he claimed the little American town as his own. And Wallingford has acclaimed him its most famous son.

Lufbery was born "somewhere in France," where he died. His father, Edward Lufbery, a New Yorker of Yankee stock, went abroad to represent a big American corporation, and married a French woman of the peasant class.

Their son grew in a little French town, attending school periodically, but, if stories are true, gaining little book knowledge. At 12 he began to shift for himself. He went to work in a chocolate factory, then shifted to a macaroni factory, and finally, finding the work irksome and feeling the lust of adventure in his veins, he set out for Paris.

Thus his wanderings began. A few weeks found him in Algiers, where he fell ill and was confined in a hospital. He became an orderly in the institution, remained in Algiers about a year, then headed for Tunis, Tunis to Cairo, Cairo to Constantinople, Constantinople to Rumania, and then to Germany, was his route. He worked in a brewery for a while, then shipped to South America under contract to a German steamship firm.

In 1907 Lufbery showed up in Wallingford, Conn, for the first time, looking for his father, who had in the meantime returned to America from France and gone back again.

But Lufbery found a younger brother in Wallingford, and joined forces with him. He attended night school, trying to learn English, of which he spoke very little. He got a job in the big silver factory in town, and for two years worked on silver trimmings for coffins.

Then he started away again. He headed for Cuba, but at New Orleans took a sidetrack and enlisted in the United States Regulars and served for 18 months in the Philippines. When his enlistment ended he went to Japan, China, India, and later wound up in Constantinople, where he was a waiter in a cafe.

Again, in a month or so, he was in Indo-China, studying airplanes and taking flight lessons from Maurice Pouppe, who also was killed in France.

When the war broke Lufbery hied himself back to France, went to the front as a mechanic, then was given his own plane. He became one of the most famous aviators the war produced.

He received the cross of the Legion of Honor, a special medal from the Aero Club of America, the French Croix de Guerre with four palms, the French military medal and the British Military medal.

WALLINGFORD MOURNS LOSS OF MAJ LUFBERY

WALLINGFORD, Conn, May 20—The family of Maj Raoul Lufbery, the American aviator whose death has been announced, today received from him some effects which gave them the impression that he intended to come here on a visit. An hour later a report came of the death of Maj Lufbery but there has been no official notification.

John E. Martin, warden of the borough, this noon ordered the flags in Wallingford be displayed at half-staff for three days. He also requested that the clergymen meet to decide on a date for holding a memorial service. In behalf of the borough Warden Martin issued a card extending sympathy to the family.

Maj Lufbery leaves his father, Edward, and a sister, in Yalesville, a brother employed here, a sister in Pennsylvania and three sisters in Boston.